Indira Gandhi National old age pension scheme

†745. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those old persons, disabled persons and widows in Uttarakhand who have been included under the schemes for pensions eligibility;

(b) the number of those old persons out of the same who have been included under Social Help Programme of Indira Gandhi old age pension; and

(c) the financial aid provided to the State under this scheme and the amount being spent by the State Government as subscription under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) At present, central assistance of Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) only to persons who are 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS is estimated to increase from 65752 during 2006-07 to nearly 2 lakhs in Uttrakhand. No central assistance is provided for pension to widows and physically handicapped who are below 65 years of age.

(c) During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 18.42 crore has been allocated to Uttrakhand under National Social Assistance Programme, which includes Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). As per the information available, the State Government of Uttarakhand is contributing Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary, in addition to the central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary as old age pension.

Landless Households in the Country

746. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the landless household in the country has increased from 22% in 1992 to 32% in 2003; and

(b) the steps contemplated by the Government to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per Report No. 491 of National Sample Survey (NSS) 59th round (January-December, 2003), the percentage of landless households (rural) in the country in 1992 and 2003 was 11.30 and 10.00 respectively. Thus, it may be seen that the number of landless households has decreased by 1.3% during the period.

Decline in real wages of regular women workers in rural areas

747. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the real wages of regular women workers in rural areas has declined to 20 to 30 per cent in recent times;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether any steps are contemplated in the recent Employment Guarantee Act to reduce the gender bias in employment and wage payments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) No, Sir. Under NREGA, wages are being paid on Task Rate Basis. The out turn of a worker is measured and wages are paid to the workers in accordance with the out turn norms fixed by the State Governments.

(b) NREGS is demand driven. Adult members of all rural households having job cards are entitled to get employment under the Act for doing unskilled manual work on demand subject to an over all ceiling of 100 days in a financial year. In para 6 of Schedule-II of the Act, it has been provided that priority shall be given to women in such a way that at least one-third of the beneficiaries shall be women who have registered and requested for work under the Act. Para 34 of Schedule II of the Act also provides that in case of every employment under the scheme, there shall be no discrimination solely on the ground of gender and the provisions of the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 shall be complied with.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana

748. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) designated to upgrade rural infrastructure in the country has not yet been commissioned;

(b) if so, the reasons and details in this regard; and

(c) what are the budgetary support demands for PMGSY for the next two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANT PATIL): (a) and (b) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in December, 2000 as a 100% Centrally Funded Scheme. The Programme aims at providing connectivity by all-weather roads to unconnected habitations with population of 500 and above in plain areas and 250 and above in hilly, desert and tribal areas. Along with new link, upgradation of existing rural through roads is also being allowed for upgradation on the concept of Associated Through Route and will be treated as an adjunct to New Connectivity for ensuring total connectivity from Farm to Market. Upto January, 2008, connectivity to 43847 habitations have been provided and construction of 146374 km of road has been completed with an expenditure of Rs. 28543 crore.

(c) For the financial year 2008-09, outlay Rs. 14530 crore has been provided including Rs. 7000 crore from National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) as per the 11th Five Year Plan proposal submitted by the Ministry of Rural Development to the Planning Commission, a requirement of Rs. 16000 crore has been projected for 2009-2010.

Identification of persons who qualify for BPL status

749. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether media reports about the death of an indigent person in Bhabnava Village, Sitapur District of U.P., highlights the failure of the authorities to identify genuine people